

Brigade under Brigadier-General F. H. B. Cunliffe, C.B., C.M.G., which reached Dar-es-Salam in the second and third weeks in December.

*Position of enemy at end of October.*

(2) The position of the enemy on the 27th October, the date of my last despatch, was shortly described in that document in the following words:—

“The net result of all these operations is that the Germans have been driven south over the Central Railway, and are now in the north-east, on the Rufiji river and about thirty miles to the north of it; in the west, along, or south and east of the Great Ruaha and Ulunga rivers; and that, with the exception of the Mahenge plateau, they have lost every healthy or valuable part of their Colony. In the east they are cut off from the coast, and in the south the Portuguese Army has appeared north of the Rowuma river.”

The retiring enemy from Tabora had reached the vicinity of Iringa and Malangali.

*Distribution of our Forces at the end of October.*

(3) My own forces were at the same time distributed as follows:—

In the east a force of some 2,000 rifles under Brigadier-General J. A. Hannington, C.M.G., D.S.O., had been conveyed by sea from Dar-es-Salam and concentrated at Kilwa, and formed the nucleus of the First Division, which, after some reorganisation and transfer of units, was assembled later at the same place, and was intended to take part in a great encircling move south of the Rufiji. General Hannington's force was in occupation of Kilwa Kiwindje and Kilwa Kisiwani, and, after some minor actions, had pushed out detachments which held Njinga, Mtumbei-Chini, Mitole, Matandu and Kibata. In view of a reported movement of the enemy towards Utete from the Mgeta front General Hannington had been warned to strengthen his Kibata detachment and to watch carefully towards the north. Preparations in connection with transport and supplies for the force which it was intended should eventually operate from Kilwa were in train, though progress was necessarily slow in consequence of the wide dispersion of the transport which was being collected, its conveyance by sea, and the heavy losses of animals, which had to be made good throughout the forces.

Mssanga, 45 miles south-west of Dar-es-Salam, was occupied by a small column under Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. Willans, D.S.O. The presence of the enemy at Kissangire, 12 miles further to the south-west, constituted a threat to our railway communications, and an attempt by a smaller column to dislodge the enemy force had failed on the 9th October.

In the centre opposite the enemy on the Mgeta river, occupying Tulo, Duthumi, Kwa-Hongo, Dakawa and Kissaki, was the First Division under Major-General A. R. Hoskins, C.M.G., D.S.O.

On this front operations were practically at a standstill, and the conditions closely resembled those of trench warfare. The situation here underwent no change until the resumption of the general offensive at the end of December. General Sheppard's Brigade was in front line, and in reserve was the brigade formerly commanded by General Hannington, whose place had been taken by Colonel (later Brigadier-

General) H. de C. O'Grady. I had already decided to move this last Brigade to Kilwa when the time appeared suitable for the step.

The 2nd South African Infantry Brigade, under Brigadier-General P. S. Beves, had been withdrawn to Morogoro, where it was held in reserve. As already explained the remainder of the 3rd Division to which General Beves' Brigade originally belonged, had been released from service, and the Division ceased to exist on the 24th October.

In the west the forward troops of the second Division under Major-General J. L. van Deventer were in occupation of Iringa, Njukwa's drift on the Ruaha, and Kidodi; the remaining troops of the Division were on the Central Railway and concentrating preparatory to moving southwards.

The Nyasaland-Rhodesia force under Brigadier-General E. Northey, A.D.C., was partly round Iringa, but the larger portion of the force was on the Ruhudje river, about Mkapira, where strong forces of the enemy were opposing us.

The situation about Iringa and to the south of that place, where detachments of the enemy force under General Wahle from Tabora were endeavouring to break through and join hands with their Mahenge troops, was at this time confused. Different encounters between patrols and detachments had occurred and communications were irregular and interrupted. General Northey at the time was often without means of communication with his troops in the Iringa area.

A battalion of South African Infantry had been sent to General Northey, and was on the way to Songea via Chinde, the Zambesi and Wiedhafen.

The Lake force recently commanded by Brigadier-General the Honourable Sir C. P. Crewe, K.C.M.G., C.B., had been abolished and such of its units as were not disbanded were sent to the Second Division, with the exception of one battalion, which remained in occupation of a portion of the Central Railway eastwards from Tabora. Tabora was occupied by the Belgian forces.

*Transfer of 1st Division to Kilwa and re-arrangement of its troops.*

(4) On the 28th October I left Morogoro for Dar-es-Salam, and thence proceeded by sea to Kilwa Kiwindje, where I saw General Hannington on the 31st and discussed the local situation, returning to Dar-es-Salam on the 1st November.

As a consequence of my investigations at Kilwa I decided on the early movement of General O'Grady's brigade to that place, and that General Hoskins, with his Divisional Staff, should proceed to assume command of the Kilwa force.

The troops at Kilwa at this date were formed into the 3rd East African Brigade, under General Hannington, and a reconstituted First Division, under General Hoskins, was brought into existence by the addition of General O'Grady's brigade.

General Sheppard's brigade, which was to remain on the Mgeta front, became an independent brigade under my own direction.

General Hoskins assumed command at Kilwa on the 15th November, and the transfer of General O'Grady's brigade by road, rail and sea to the Kilwa area occupied from the 7th to the 29th November.